

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 9 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~data processing~~ printing apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, said ~~data processing~~ printing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit that stores therein a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other;

a reception unit that receives a request transmitted from ~~an external apparatus~~ a first computer via the network, wherein the request includes a kind of data process as a requested data process to be executed;

an allocating unit that newly allocates a port for the requested data process included in the request received by said reception unit and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer;

a port number notifying unit that notifies the ~~external apparatus~~ first computer of a port number of ~~a dynamically allocated port for the kind of data process~~

~~included in the request received by said reception unit~~ the port allocated by said allocating unit;

a registration unit that associates discrimination information of the ~~external apparatus which transmitted the request~~ first computer and the port number ~~which was notified by said port number notifying unit with each other,~~ forms of the port allocated by said allocating unit to form connection limitation information, and registers the formed connection limitation information ~~in~~ into the connection limitation table stored ~~by~~ in said storage unit;

a data receiving unit that receives data addressed to the ~~allocated port~~ allocated by said allocating unit, from an external apparatus; and

a control unit ~~that discriminates whether or not the connection limitation information in which the port number corresponding to the allocated port of the data received by said data receiving unit and the discrimination information of the external apparatus which transmitted the data received by said data receiving unit are associated with each other has been registered in the connection limitation table by said registration unit,~~

~~wherein said control unit controls to execute a process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by said data receiving unit in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has been registered in the connection limitation table, and controls not to execute the process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by said data receiving unit in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has not been registered in the~~

~~connection limitation table, even though the data processing apparatus has been permitted to communicate with the external apparatus which transmitted the data received by said data receiving unit that controls, based on the formed connection limitation information registered by said registration unit, to execute the requested data process based on the data received by said data receiving unit in a case where the external apparatus is the first computer, and not to execute the requested data process based on the data received by said data receiving unit in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.~~

9. to 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A communicating method performed in a ~~data processing printing~~ apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, said method comprising:

a storage step of storing, in a storage unit of the data processing printing apparatus, a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other;

a reception step of receiving a request transmitted from ~~an external apparatus~~ a first computer via the network, wherein the request includes a kind of data process as a requested data process to be executed;

an allocating step of newly allocating a port for the requested data process included in the request received by said reception step and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer;

a port number notifying step of notifying the external apparatus first computer of a port number of a dynamically allocated port for a kind of data process included in the request received by said reception the port allocated in the allocating step;

a registration step of associating discrimination information of the external apparatus which transmitted the request first computer and the port number which was notified by said port number notifying step with each other, forming of the port allocated by said allocating step to form connection limitation information, and registering the formed connection limitation information into the connection limitation table stored by said storage step unit;

a data receiving step of receiving data addressed to the port allocated by the allocating step port, from an external apparatus; and

a control step of discriminating whether or not the connection limitation information in which the port number corresponding to the allocated port of the data received by said data receiving step and the discrimination information of the external apparatus which transmitted the data received by said data receiving step are associated with each other has been registered on the connection limitation table by said registration step,

wherein said control step controls to execute a process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by said data receiving step in a case where it is

~~discriminated that the connection limitation information has been registered in the connection limitation table, and controls not to execute the process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by said data receiving step in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has not been registered in the connection limitation table, even though the data processing apparatus has been permitted to communicate with the external apparatus which transmitted the data received by said data receiving step~~ controlling, based on the formed connection limitation information registered by the registration step, to execute the requested data process based on the data received by said data receiving step in a case where the external apparatus is the first computer, and controlling not to execute the requested data process based on the data received by said data receiving step in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

19. to 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable ~~recording~~ storage medium on which is stored a computer executable control program executed by a ~~data processing printing~~ apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, wherein said control program causes a processor of the ~~data processing printing~~ apparatus to execute:

a storage step to store, in a storage unit of the data processing printing apparatus, a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in

which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other;

a reception step to receive a request transmitted from ~~an external apparatus~~ a first computer via the network, wherein the request includes a kind of data process as a requested data process to be executed;

an allocating step to newly allocate a port for the requested data process included in the request received by said reception step and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer;

a port number notifying step to notify the ~~external apparatus~~ first computer of a port number of ~~a dynamically allocated port for a kind of data process included in the request received by said reception step~~ the port allocated by said allocating step;

a registration step to associate discrimination information of the ~~external apparatus which transmitted the request~~ first computer and the port number ~~which was notified by said port number notifying step with each other, to form~~ of the port allocated by said allocating step to form connection limitation information, and to register the formed connection limitation information ~~in~~ into the connection limitation table stored ~~by~~ in said storage ~~step~~ unit;

a data receiving step to receive data addressed to the ~~allocated port~~ port allocated by said allocating step, from an external apparatus; and

a control step ~~to discriminate whether or not the connection limitation information in which the port number corresponding to the allocated port of the data received by said data receiving step and the discrimination information of the external~~

~~apparatus which transmitted the data received by said data receiving step are associated with each other has been registered in the connection limitation table by said registration step,~~

~~wherein the control step controls to execute a process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by said data receiving step in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has been registered in the connection limitation table, and to controls not to execute the process corresponding to the allocated port based on the data received by said data receiving step in a case where it is discriminated that the connection limitation information has not been registered in the connection limitation table, even though the data processing apparatus has been permitted to communicate with the external apparatus which transmitted the data received by said data receiving step to control, based on the formed connection limitation information registered by said registration step, to execute the requested data process based on the data received by said data receiving step in a case where the external apparatus is the first computer, and to control not to execute the requested data process based on the data received by said data receiving step in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.~~

23. to 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A ~~data processing~~ printing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a discriminating unit that discriminates whether or not to permit communication with the first computer ~~external apparatus~~,

wherein said port number notifying unit notifies the first computer ~~external apparatus~~ of the port number allocated by the allocating unit in a case where said discriminating unit discriminates to permit the communication with the first computer ~~external apparatus~~.

39. (Currently Amended) A ~~data processing~~ printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the discrimination information of the ~~external apparatus~~ computer included in the connection limitation information stored in the connection limitation table is an IP address of the ~~external apparatus~~ first computer.

40. (Currently Amended) A ~~data processing~~ printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said port number notifying unit notifies the ~~external apparatus~~ first computer of a first port number if the kind of data process is a printing process for processing print data, and notifies the first computer of a second port number if the kind of data process is a managing process for managing the ~~data processing~~ printing apparatus.

41. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, further comprising a discriminating step of discriminating whether or not to permit communication with the first computer ~~external apparatus~~,



wherein said port number notifying step notifies the first computer ~~external apparatus~~ of the port number allocated by the allocating step in a case where said discriminating step discriminates to permit the communication with the first computer ~~external apparatus~~.

42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the discrimination information of the ~~external apparatus~~ computer included in the connection limitation information stored in the connection limitation table is an IP address of the ~~external apparatus~~ computer.

43. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein said port number notifying step notifies the ~~external apparatus~~ first computer of a first port number if the kind of data process is a printing process for processing print data, and notifies the first computer of a second port number if the kind of data process is a managing process for managing the ~~data processing~~ printing apparatus.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer readable ~~recording~~ storage medium according to claim 22, further comprising a discriminating step of discriminating whether or not to permit communication with the first computer ~~external apparatus~~,

wherein said port number notifying step notifies the first computer ~~external apparatus~~ of the port number in a case where said discriminating step discriminates to permit the communication with the first computer ~~external apparatus~~.

45. (Currently Amended) A computer readable ~~recording~~ storage medium according to claim 22, wherein the discrimination information of the computer included in the connection limitation information stored in the connection limitation table ~~external apparatus~~ is an IP address of the ~~external apparatus~~ computer.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer readable ~~recording~~ storage medium according to claim 22, wherein said port number notifying step notifies the ~~external apparatus~~ first computer of a first port number if the kind of data process is a printing process for processing print data, and notifies the first computer of a second port number if the kind of data process is a managing process for managing the ~~data processing~~ printing apparatus.